

## **COUNCIL ON RECYCLING**

c/o Planning and Evaluation Section  
Bureau of Waste Management  
Department of Natural Resources  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707  
608/267-7566

February 12, 2003

The Honorable Jim Doyle  
Governor, State of Wisconsin  
115 East  
State Capitol  
PO Box 7863  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Doyle:

We are pleased to send you the recommendations of the Council on Recycling on increasing the recycling of computers, computer peripherals and televisions in Wisconsin.

The Council recognized that the disposal of electronics (specifically computers, computer peripherals and televisions) was becoming a significant issue for municipalities, the business community and individuals. The Council created a task force to research this issue. The task force included representatives of municipalities, recyclers, businesses, trade associations and individuals. The task force met 12 times over a 19-month period. The task force found concerns by individuals and professionals involved in this area about the toxic properties of these electronics. These products contain hazardous materials such as lead, hexavalent chromium and brominated flame-retardants. The health and environmental problems associated with these materials are well known. It is estimated that there were 1.9 million computer systems and 5.2 million televisions in Wisconsin in 2001. That number is expected to increase each year. Consumers wanted to recycle but often they were not able to find cost-effective or convenient options.

The task force brought its findings to the Council with their recommendations. The Council thoroughly discussed the options and approved the following recommendations for your consideration. The Council is also sending these recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, Secretary of the Department of Commerce, legislative leadership and to legislators on the environmental committees of the legislature.

The major points of the recommendations are:

- Undertake a study to determine the volume of material, infrastructure capacity, service providers, current practices and awareness of current laws.
- Support the National Electronic Product Stewardship Institute's dialogue with stakeholders. That dialogue is an attempt to reach a national consensus on reuse/recycling of electronics.
- Develop procurement guidelines for computers, computer peripherals and televisions.
- Develop a system to divert computers, computer peripherals and televisions from landfills in Wisconsin with the cost of diversion built into the price of the product.
- Phase in a ban on computers, computer peripherals and televisions from landfills in Wisconsin.
- Foster a voluntary certification program for processors and handlers, and
- Seek administrative rules to ensure compliance if voluntary certification is not successful.

The full recommendations follow this letter. We respectfully request your support.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Meyer  
Chair- Council on Recycling

John Reindl- Vice Chair  
Jacqueline Moore Bowles  
William Casey  
Carol Casey Kubly  
Catherine Onsager  
Tracy Toltzman